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On Bidding, DPUC Has Only Itself To Blame

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Letters To The Editor:

The Day published an op-ed by the five Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) commissioners defending their recent decision to approve a substantial rate increase for The Connecticut Light & Power Company (CL&P). ("Trust us: No way to duck high power rates," Jan. 2.) That rate increase was based on the results of CL&P's recent energy purchases, needed to supply that company's Transitional Standard Offer service for 2006.

This DPUC op-ed was completely inaccurate in its description of the role my agency, the Office of Consumer Counsel, played in the Transitional Standard Offer energy-procurement process. The DPUC said that the Office of Consumer Counsel helped develop this energy-bidding process, and that we had declined to participate in opening the bids received. That isn't true. The DPUC rejected the Office of Consumer Counsel's recommendations on how this bidding process should be structured, and instead took an approach that left my agency no meaningful role.

The public record, in DPUC Docket No. 03-07-18 from August 2003 onward, makes this clear.

I prize my agency's professional relationship with the DPUC. The Office of Consumer Counsel works closely with that agency on many matters relating to the state's regulated utilities, and we often find common ground in the public interest. However, on the Transitional Standard Offer energy-procurement process, our two agencies were in firm disagreement. I write to set the record straight on this point. ■

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Editor's note: The writer is the state consumer counsel.

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